

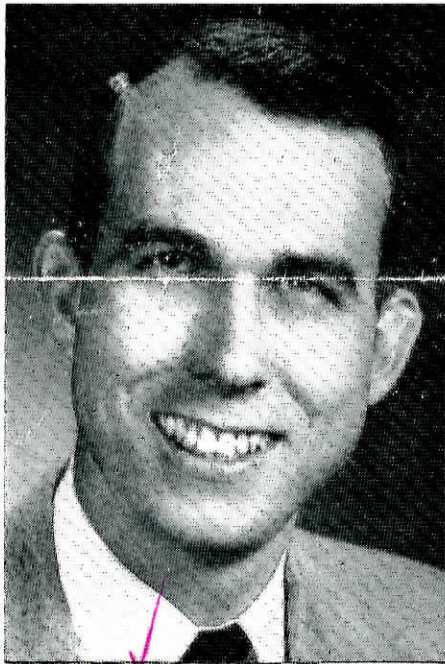
The BRYAN NEWSLETTER

Vol. XXIII

July 1956

No. 10

DR. MERCER ELECTED TO THE PRESIDENCY



Dr. Theodore C. Mercer

(At the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees on June 4, Theodore C. Mercer was elected to the office of president of Bryan University, to fill the vacancy left by Judson A. Rudd, President Emeritus since June, 1955.)

Dr. Mercer comes to his new office as one not unknown to Bryan University or to this section of the country. Having been born and reared in Spring City, just seventeen miles north of Dayton, he attended the local Spring City elementary school, and is an alumnus of Spring City High School.

Following his high school work Dr. Mercer entered Bob Jones University, then Bob Jones College, where he completed the requirements for both his bachelor's and master's degrees in the field of religion. Further graduate work was taken at the University of Chicago, where Dr. Mercer's major field of study was English literature.

In recognition of the work he had done both as teacher and admin-

istrator at Bob Jones University, Houghton College, of Houghton, New York, conferred upon him in 1952 the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters.

Dr. Mercer comes to Bryan with considerable experience in the field of teaching and in the field of administration, both on the college level. After some ten years of teaching English literature, his ability as an administrator led him into the position of registrar and later to the office of Assistant to the President at Bob Jones University. Following his resignation from that office, Dr. Mercer has been Director of Publicity at Muskingum College, New Concord, Ohio, thereby gaining wide experience in another phase of university administration and adding materially to the background needed in the office of president.

When asked what his hobbies were, Dr. Mercer denied that he had any in particular, but did state that he enjoyed going places and seeing things. His travels have taken him into most of the better known sections of this country and on up into Canada.

Dr. Mercer, when still living in Spring City, became quite familiar with Bryan University, having attended Bible Conferences, commencement exercises, and other functions. "Oh, yes," he reminisced. "I heard Dr. Charles Currens and Dr. Harris Gregg, and attended the Bible Conferences more than once when they used to be held out in the old pavilion, and also remember having heard Dr. Howard Kelly speak at commencement."

Coming to Bryan with Dr. Mercer was Mrs. Mercer, who, herself is an experienced college teacher, mainly in the field of English composition and related studies. She is a graduate of Bob Jones University and later was granted the M. A. with a major in English, by George Peabody College for Teachers, of Nashville.

(Continued on page 2)

SIERK HEADS HONOR LIST

Herbert Sierk, who came to Bryan from Fort Worth, Texas, as a graduate of the Moody Bible Institute, of Chicago, led his class academically with an almost unheard-of average of 2.819 for the year and 2.825 for his period of attendance at the University. His diploma was awarded **summa cum laude**, an academic honor which has been won by very few of those who have graduated from Bryan over the past twenty-three years.

Marilyn Steinberger, Everett, Pennsylvania, and Charles Willoughby, Fort Worth, Texas, were also honor graduates, both receiving their degrees **cum laude**.

Second in the senior standing for the year was Everett Boyce, who
(Continued on page 4)

Classes Present Projects

In keeping with the well established custom which has so greatly helped the University to secure some of the "wants" that regular income could not be assigned to buying, the classes presented their annual projects to the University, announcement being made at commencement. The projects, as varied as they are helpful, included the annual junior class project of the college yearbook—**The Commoner**. Bound in green Fabrikoid, it is an excellent representation of life on Bryan Hill.

The senior class gift amounted to \$140.00, to be applied on books for the new library, to be chosen and purchased as suited to the special needs of teachers and students.

The sophomores concluded a two-year project of \$300.00, the amount being used to purchase parts and help to put into operation an offset printing press recently secured by the University. This adds greatly to the output of the print shop and to the variety of jobs that can be done at more reasonable rates than through other channels.

The freshman project was a con-
(Continued on page 2)



FROM MY HEART TO YOU

In the June *Newsette* I asked for special prayer that the trustees would soon locate God's appointed man to succeed me as President of The William Jennings Bryan University. More than a year had elapsed since my resignation when I wrote this request, but before most of you had received the *Newsette*, the Board had already elected Dr. Theodore C. Mercer to the presidency of the University.

Now it can be told that some of our friends who best know Dr. Mercer have felt all along that he was the right man to succeed me, and they have been praying that he would be elected. Interviewing Dr. Mercer at length in the meeting of the Board on the day before Commencement, the trustees came to the definite conclusion that they were being providentially led in securing him for this responsible position. The vote was unanimous, with every trustee but one being present when the action was taken.

Born and reared in Rhea County, Dr. Mercer is quite familiar with the background as well as with the history of the University. Although he did not attend Bryan, there have been many contacts through the years with various ones associated with the University.

When speaking at a Bryan chapel service near the end of the year, Dr. Mercer mentioned that he received his early Bible teaching from a trustee of Bryan University. He has sat under the ministry of Bryan University Bible teachers including Dr. Charles Currens and Dr. Harris Gregg. He remembers hearing many of our visiting speakers including Dr. Howard A. Kelly, the world-famous Christian physician and surgeon who was a trustee of Bryan University during the later years of his life.

Years of experience in the field of Christian Education with many contacts both in the Christian world and the educational world, combine

(Continued on page 4)

P. A. Boyd Prizes Announced

At the commencement exercises on June 5 announcement was made of the winners of the P. A. Boyd prizes of ten dollars each to a man and a woman of the senior class and to one student from each of the other classes.

Winner of the man's prize for the seniors was Mr. Charles Willoughby, of Fort Worth, Texas. Winner of the woman's prize for the seniors was Alice McLeod, of Hayward, Wisconsin.

Individuals winning as members of the remaining three classes were Willis Brownlee, Toledo, Ohio, for the juniors; Nola Jahnke, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for the sophomores; and Glen Lehman, of Pekin, Illinois, for the freshmen.

The prizes, given by Mr. P. A. Boyd, of Bloomfield, New Jersey, are awarded by vote of the faculty to "the students whose powers and attainment of mind and body and whose principles and character have secured for them the highest degree of influence over their fellow students. Candidates must manifest nobility of character, fearlessness, and self-sacrificing devotion to the ideals of a purposeful life, and an active identification in constructive work for the best interests of student life in the University. These prizes shall not be awarded to a user of alcohol or tobacco."

Off To School They Went...

"No more lessons, no more books. No more teacher's angry looks." ran the old jingle which initiated each summer vacation period for the youth of our land. But not so for the teachers, who must use the summer months to keep up with times, press on towards high degrees, and gather new material for the following year's classes. This is true on Bryan Hill, as it must be elsewhere, so off to school they went...

Mr. Anderson, Assistant Professor of Biblical Languages is back at Dallas Seminary, where he will be hard at the task of completing his dissertation and other work leading to his Th. D.

Mr. Brown, Associate Professor of History, is back at Harvard once again, continuing his dissertation work.

Mr. Butler, Assistant Professor of Philosophy is off for a year's leave

of absence to continue his doctoral studies at the University of North Carolina, where he hopes to complete his work in philosophy and to receive his Ph. D. a year from August.

Miss Mary Alice Greider, Instructor in Spanish, is also "off to school," attending the University of Wisconsin for further study on her master's degree.

Miss Lou Rouch, Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, will continue the research problem related to her Ph. D. program by spending much of the summer in the Little Piney Creek gorge some twenty-five miles from Dayton.

Other members of the faculty are occupied in various other tasks and programs not especially related to the securing of degrees, but making the most of the summer in one way or another.

DR. MERCER ELECTED TO THE PRESIDENCY

(Continued from page 1)

Tennessee.

Mrs. Mercer, formerly Alice Moore, of Montgomery, Alabama, is the daughter of a retired Methodist minister, who now resides in Ft. Deposit, Alabama.

In addition to Dr. and Mrs. Mercer, the family includes three sons. Teddy, Jr., is now nine and a half, John is four, and David is proud of his two and a half years.

Newsette would like to welcome the Mercers to Bryan Hill and into the Bryan fellowship and wants at the same time to extend the prayerful wish that they may have many, many years of happy service in building a greater and farther reaching academic testimony for the Lord on Bryan Hill.

CLASSES PRESENT PROJECTS

(Continued from page 1)

tribution of \$150.00 to be used in a badly needed paint job for the interior of the Memorial Chapel. It is hoped that this work can be done during the summer.

The Alumni Association also undertakes an annual project for the University. For this year the project has had as its goal the purchase of books for the library, the total amount of the project coming to \$1,800.00.

Thus it is that the present and former students share with the many

(Continued on page 3)

KRAMER, REESE GET ROGERS AWARDS

John Kramer, senior from Tell City, Indiana, was winner of the Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Rogers Bible award to the "senior who manifests a real Christian consecration, who exhibits real facility in the use of the Bible, and who looks forward to full-time Christian service." John has majored in history and Greek and expects to enter Dallas Theological Seminary this coming fall.

To James Reese, Williamston, Michigan, went the award of the music emblem for having "given outstanding service to the University" in the field of music. Jim's lovely baritone voice and trombone have provided music for many occasions on and off the Hill. He has been a member of the Concert Choir and has been on three tours with the Gospel Messengers. He will enter the Grand Rapids Baptist Theological Seminary for further training.

Faculty Votes Annual Prizes

The Faculty prizes, awarded to seniors by vote of the faculty each year, were this year awarded to men only. To Herbert Sierk, Fort Worth, Texas, went the prize for the highest scholastic record for his period of attendance at Bryan University.

Mark Davis, Red Jacket, West Virginia, was recognized as the senior who has contributed most in faithfulness and loyalty to the welfare of the University.

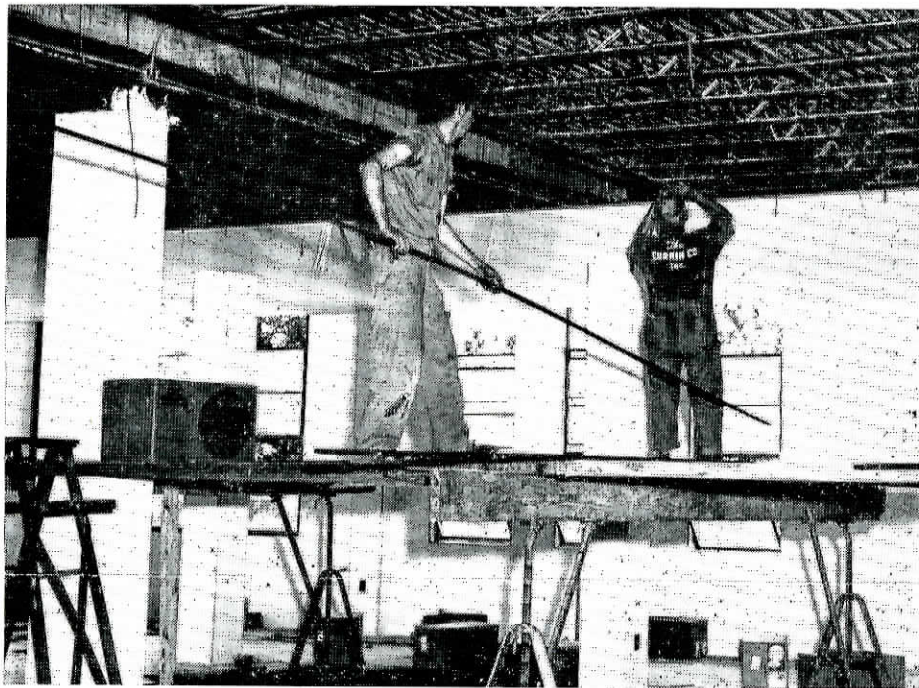
Wilbur Pickering, who claims Bolivia, South America, for home, was awarded the prize for achieving the most progress during his four years at Bryan.

In each case the prize is a check for ten dollars. An additional prize of ten dollars, given anonymously each year "to the upper classman who, in the minds of the entire freshman class, has manifested to them in his daily living what the University stands for and has meant most ... in helping them to become adjusted to life on Bryan Hill and has been to them a testimony for the Lord" was awarded to Kenneth Campbell, of Ajax, Ontario, Canada.

CLASSES PRESENT PROJECTS

(Continued from page 2)

other friends and contributors in building the University, that it may serve still other young people in their search for Christian higher education.



The ceiling goes up in the library.

SUMMER BUILDING PROGRESSES

Visitors coming onto the Hill these days are beginning to visualize what the lobby, business office, and library area are going to look like when completed. The terrazzo flooring is in and completed, excepting for touching up a spot here and there. That in the entrance lobby and the business office is black and white on a light gray background, trimmed with a border in the lobby and the adjacent hall in black with white chips of marble. The floor in the library has the gray background with deep rust-red chips mixed with a sort of cream shade. Both floors are particularly attractive and have earned the approval of all who have seen them.

The doorways at all entrances will probably be in by the time **Newsette** comes from the press. The partition between the business office and lobby has the aluminum framework already in place and is ready for the installation of the plateglass. Workers are installing the other partitions in the lobby at the present time. Glass will not be put into the framework until other work has been accomplished in the areas and there is less danger of breakage in moving scaffolding, ladders, and other materials.

The acoustical tile ceiling has already been installed in the hallway and the business office, and the workers are now carrying on in the library area, which should be com-

pleted within a week. The ceiling tile is twelve by twelve squares with the full-random or "shotgun" pattern holes of varying sizes and without regular pattern. It makes an especially beautiful ceiling. The tile is held in place through the use of metal channels on two sides with interlocking tiles so that there is no possibility of sagging squares later on.

Lighting fixtures will be installed just as soon as the library ceiling is in place. The long fluorescent surface lights, running the entire width of the room, are about twelve inches wide and are planned to light every table adequately, regardless of the position of the reader.

In the lobby the lighting system is planned so that a subdued indirect light can be supplied from the cove lighting, running entirely around the room, or when more intensive lighting is desired, the five large four by four lights in the ceiling can be turned on, with either two or six fluorescent lamps on in each light.

Yet to be installed in the entrance stairway are the aluminum railings, which will add much to an already attractive entrance.

It is anticipated that all these areas will be completed for use sometime late in the summer, with the library ready for equipment to be installed around the middle of July.

BECK AND RYLE WIN SPORTSMANSHIP AWARDS

Each year at the conclusion of the intra-mural athletic program the Athletic Committee meets for the purpose of choosing from all the campus athletes the man and the woman who have, in the minds of the committee, manifested the finest spirit of good sportsmanship. This year's award went to Marleen Beck, a member of the senior class. Marleen comes from Danville, Iowa, and has been most active in all the intra-mural sports program throughout her four years at Bryan.

The award for the men went to Gayle Ryle, sophomore from Erlanger, Kentucky. Gayle has been player and manager for his class teams, playing football and softball and managing the basketball team.

FROM MY HEART TO YOU (Continued from page 2)

to give Dr. Mercer a vision of the possibilities for Bryan University. Perhaps what impressed the trustees most about Dr. Mercer was that, being fully cognizant of all the problems

confronting Bryan University as well as other colleges of today, he still has such buoyant faith in what can be accomplished for Christ through the University in the lives of the young people of our country.

Dr. Mercer sees Bryan as "a place of much potential and of multiple problems." He has faced the facts realistically and written each one of you frankly asking for your help in two ways. I hope and pray there will be a most encouraging response to his request for names of prospective students and for gifts, "even token gifts," to furnish and equip the H. A. Ironside Memorial Library.

Cordially yours,
Judson A. Rudd
President Emeritus

SIERK HEADS HONOR LIST (Continued from page 1)

entered Bryan from Buffalo, New York, but who now claims Dayton as his place of residence. His average was 2.455.

Honor students for the year for the junior class included Harry Goehring, Callery, Pennsylvania, with an average of 2.641 and Ann

Ross, Whitwell, Tennessee, with an average of 2.529.

Sophomores who placed first and second in yearly averages were Iva Hillegas, Neenah, Wisconsin, and Sarah Dolsen, Pueblo, Colorado, with averages of 2.593 and 2.421 respectively.

Leaders for the freshman class included Ralph Latta, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, with an average of 2.193 and Howard Spanogle, Altoona, Pennsylvania, who averaged 2.166.

TEN WIN COVETED "B"

In a chapel service held shortly before the close of school, athletic letters or stripes were awarded to ten track men.

Those winning the University "B" for intercollegiate competition were the following:

James Barth, Poland, Ohio, letter with three stripes

Larry Granneman, New London, Ohio, letter

Dave Holland, Hooper, Colorado, letter

Dave Honeywell, Delton, Michigan, letter

Harry Goehring, Callery, Pennsylvania, letter with two stripes

Lin Royston, College Park, Georgia, letter

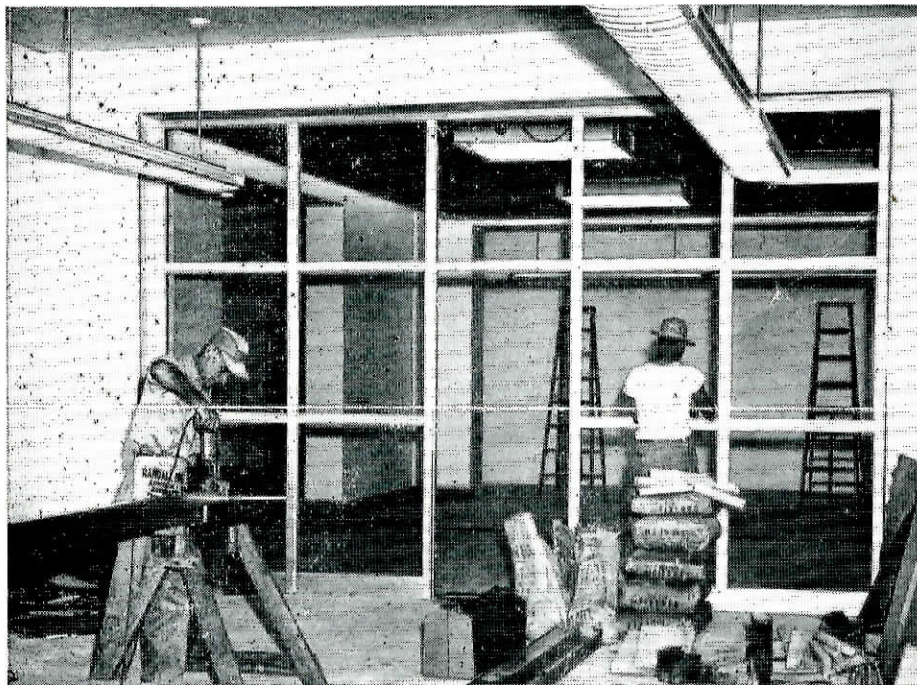
Richard Ruble, Petersburg, Virginia, letter with three stripes and captain's star

Ronald Shanks, Worthington, Ohio, letter

Dean Wisthoff, Neenah, Wisconsin, letter

Dave Watson, Laurelton, New Jersey, letter with two stripes and captain's star

Letters and stripes—given in place of additional letters—are awarded on the basis of points won in the various track meets during the year.



Workers install aluminum framework for the glass partition between the lobby and the business office.

MAY GIFT INCOME

Operating Fund	\$3,917.84
Plant Fund	5,063.11
Total	\$8,980.95

"CHRIST ABOVE ALL" BRYAN NEWSETTE

Judson A. Rudd, LLD.....Editor-in-chief
Mrs. Joann McManus.....Circulation Mgr.

Published and Printed Monthly by
William Jennings Bryan University
Dayton, Tennessee

Entered as second-class matter, March 13, 1937,
at the post office at Dayton, Tennessee, under
the Act of August 24, 1912.